GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5561
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2001
EMERGING DIVISION IN EDUCATION SECTOR
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noted the emerging division in the education sector in the country, with one set of people having access to high quality costly education and the other being denied such access;

(b) if so, whether any funding mechanism proposed to be instituted to create more level field in education;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make education accessible at all levels?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (d): The National Policy on Education (NPE) provides for a National System of Education which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curricular framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. The NPE also envisages separate and special provisions for education of disadvantaged sections of the society.

Several schemes were launched by way of Central interventions primarily for meeting the needs of the educationally backward classes. These Schemes are Operation Blackboard, Non-formal Education, Teacher Education, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, District Primary Education Programme, Mahila Samakhya, Total Literacy Campaign, Community Polytechnics, Lok Jumbish, Shiksha Karmi Project, Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities, Integrated Education for Disabled Children, etc.While elementary and secondary stages of education are either fully or partially free in all Government and Government aided schools, higher and technical education are greatly subsidized. The Government has also recently announced a scheme of educational loans for school and higher education upto a limit of Rs.7.50 lakhs for studies in the country and Rs.15 lakhs for pursuing studies in foreign institutions.

Concerns regarding quality and equity in education are also continuously addressed by Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions.